

## The Third Annual Lyle Kirk Lecture To Be Held

The third annual Lyle Kirk Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Toledo Society for the Blind and the Downtown Lions Club, will be held Tuesday, May 9, at 8 p.m. at the Medical College of Ohio. Invitations will include a map with directions to the meeting room.

William H. Havener, M.D., will speak on the topic of "Cataracts." A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Havener currently serves as a professor and the Chairman of Ophthalmology at Ohio State University. Dr. Havener received his medical degree from Western Reserve, his masters from the University of Michigan, and served a Fellowship at Harvard University from 1950 to 1951. He has had 150 works and 13 textbooks published.

Members of the coordinating committee are: Drs. Robert Huss, Robert Kies, Messrs. Sam Magee, John Goerlich, and Barry McEwen.



Mr. John Goerlich, Chairman of the Board Toledo Society for the Blind

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After postponing the Lions Club Christmas Party for the Blind to a later date in December because of snow, about 200 blind persons and sighted guests enjoyed a fine program by Dr. Fred Hartman, Judge John Potter, Messrs. Jack Mitchell and Don Edwards, and the choir from St. James Church of God in Christ. In the picture above is Anne Swearingen and Betty Lewis chatting with Jack Mitchell of WSPD radio. Pictured below are Lions Club members serving guests.



## Early Reminder for 1978 Holiday Card Program

To simply say "Thank You" to all who purchased our Holiday cards last year is certainly not enough. Through your purchase of these cards, we are able to continue with our extracurricular activities such as summer camp, family nights, and the eye clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, which are not provided for by the Community Chest.

To those of you who wish to have your 1978 holiday greeting card selection early, please fill in the enclosed card and drop it in the mail. You should receive your selection sometime in August. Anything over the amount of money you normally spend for greeting cards is tax deductible.

## Braille Volunteer Group 23 Years In Existence

The group was only three back in 1955. But now they number 20 and continue to transcribe printed material into Braille for visually impaired individuals. Mrs. Alice Levey has chaired the group since 1960.

"We've transcribed cookbooks, hymnals, and educational material for the Toledo Society for the Blind, the Board of Education, and Toledo Public Schools," Ms. Levey says. "We recently completed a directory of programs and services for the handicapped."

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are associated primarily with aging. They are the result of an increased life expectancy. Twenty-five percent of the severely visually impaired are in the 45 to 64 year old age group, 8 percent are 25 to 44 years of age, and only 4 percent are under 25 years of age.

About 20,000 persons, 12 percent of the severely visually impaired, are in the labor force, and there are approximately 60,000 severely visually impaired children of school or preschool age in the United States. About 40,000 of these are in school (including an estimated 3,000 college students), while 20,000 are still too young to be in a learning institution. These children make up about 3 percent of the severely visually impaired population.

(Taken from "Facts About Blindness" by the American Foundation for the Blind, Inc.)

On March 6th, the group held a tea at which Ms. Phyllis Knisely from the Vision Center of the Toledo Public Schools spoke about her work with the visually impaired students.

The volunteer group meets every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Temple at 6453 Sylvania Avenue. Ms. Levey extends an invitation to anyone interested to join the group on Tuesday mornings for training. For more information, contact Ms. Levey at 536-8186.

# the Toledo Society for the Blind

1819 Canton Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43624, Telephone 241-1183



A Community Chest Agency

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## New President Elected

In January the Toledo Society for the Blind Board of Trustees elected William Marti president. Mr. Marti first became associated with the Society in 1953 when he joined the Downtown Lion's Club. Through the years he has held various positions in the club including president and chairman of the welfare fund.

Mr. Marti is the president of Canteen Service Company in Toledo. When he is not involved with business or Society responsibilities, Mr. Marti enjoys working on his farm in Pioneer, Ohio.

New officers for 1978 also include Thomas Day, Vice President; Walter Cline, Secretary; Franklin Schroeder, Treasurer. The retiring president, John Goerlich, was elected to a newly created position, Chairman of the Board. The Board also appointed Barry A. McEwen, Executive Director. Donald G. Norwood, previous director, was named to the newly created position of Business Manager.



## Collaborative Effort Benefits Visually Impaired Students



Instructor Tom Van Hoven shows Ken Calvin how to use a saw while Wayne Carnicom watches.

Laughing, giggling, talking, and sharing. It's about 9:45 on a Monday morning and 19 visually impaired students once again infiltrate the front business office of the Toledo Society for the Blind. Their entrance brings a welcomed change—a break in the office routine that puts a smile on employee faces.

A collaboration between the Toledo Society for the Blind and the Toledo Public Schools enables the elementary school students to learn homemaking, personal grooming, and industrial arts skills. The Society provides rehabilitation, counseling, and recreational services for partially sighted and blind

persons and is equipped with a rehabilitation center for mobility and home management.

The Monday morning classes, which began last October, is the Society's first collaborative effort with the Toledo Public School System in many years, according to Barry McEwen, executive director of the Society.

"What are we going to do today?" Gardell Johnson eagerly questioned his teacher as they walked together down the hall to the rehabilitation center.

"How would you like to learn how to cut up vegetables?" Martha Klingel-

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## Donations Enable Visual Aid Purchases

The purchase of electronic visual aids has been made possible through several donations.

A \$2,000 grant from the Toledo Community Foundation plus donations in the amount of \$700 will be used to buy a laser cane. This electronic mobility aid probes the environment with three thin pencils of laser light emanating from a "long" cane of the sort used by the blind for cane travel. These beams detect dropoffs, straight-ahead obstacles, and obstacles appearing between chest and head height, warning the traveler with auditory and tactile signals.

Another generous donation was used to purchase a closed circuit television which electronically enlarges print up to 40 times. Anyone who might be interested in electronic visual aid demonstrations should contact Mrs. Turner (241-1183). Those interested in contributing toward the purchase of these devices should contact Mr. Don Norwood at the above number.

## Collaborative Effort

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hafer, his instructor, replied.

Gardell's response: "Can we eat them when we're done?"

Ms. Klingelhafer laughed as they continued down the hall. She and Ms. Judy Mascho together instruct the class of 10 to 15-year-olds at DeVeaux Elementary School on Sylvania Avenue. The students are transported to DeVeaux from Lyons, Swanton, Delta, Toledo, Sylvania, and Maumee, Ohio.

Each Monday morning, bus service provided by Toledo Organized Recreation for the City's Handicapped (TORCH) transports the students from DeVeaux to the Society and back. A \$50 donation from the Lions Club provided needed supplies.

The children are split into four separate classes. After six weeks of instruction, the students move into a different class. Ms. Klingelhafer instructs the cooking class which also delves into vitamin education, table preparation and table manners. Ms. Mascho teaches the sewing class in which the handicapped students learn sewing basics such as how to use scissors and sew on buttons, in addition to making their own sewing creations.

Three additional instructors from the DeVilbiss High School Vision Center—Mary Peters, Martha Haubert, and Tom Van Hoven—round out the teaching

roster. Ms. Peters, assisted by Ms. Haubert, instructs students on home cleaning and personal grooming. The industrial arts class is taught by Tom Van Hoven who currently is teaching his class how to use a saw. The students eventually will make wooden stools and pencil holders.

"Monday is one day in which we nearly always have perfect attendance," Ms. Klingelhafer said. "The students really look forward to these classes each week."

With that, little Gardell walked up with a plateful of relishes neatly cut and decoratively placed.

"The celery sticks with the peanut butter filling are the best," he tipped us as he passed the plate.

Although Gardell may not realize it, he just learned another basic home-making skill.

## How To Succeed at Being Blind

(The following portion dealing with visual aids available to the blind concludes the series based on "How To Succeed at Being Blind," written by Dr. Hanan C. Selvin and published by the magazine, NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND.)

One step farther down the scale of sight takes you beyond the optical low-vision aids to the electronic aids, generally known as "TV Magnifiers." These devices usually consist of three main parts: (1) a sliding table on which the reading material is placed; (2) a TV camera, often equipped with a zoom lens, mounted vertically above the sliding table; and (3) a TV "monitor"—a TV receiver that is connected by wire to the TV camera. After a few hours of instruction and practice you will be able, in effect, to reprint the reading material in a size, brightness, contrast, and "mode" of type that pleases you. In other words, the image of the page that is projected on the monitor conforms to that combination of characteristics you find easiest to read. The "mode" refers to the ability of the machine, by the flick of a switch, to change ordinary black-on-white print to white-on-black, which is much easier for people with many kinds of visual problems.

Then there is that newer and still more magical realm of devices that "transduce" visible information into information that can be apprehended by some other sensory modality. In short, these devices change sight into sound or touch. Perhaps the most widely used is the Optacon which consists of a fountain pen-sized light-sensitive device

## STATISTICS ON BLINDNESS

It is estimated that there are about 6.4 million persons in the United States with some kind of visual impairment: that is, persons who have trouble seeing even with corrective lenses. Of these, 1.7 million are severely impaired. This means that they are either "legally blind" or that they function as if they were "legally blind" even though their vision does not fall into that definition. Only about 400,000 of the severely visually impaired, however, have no usable vision at all.

Over one million persons—or about 65 percent of the severely visually impaired—are 65 years of age or older. Of this 65 percent, 22 percent are 65 to 74; 43 percent are 75 and over. This is because the diseases which are the major causes of blindness in this country

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with a small wheel at its bottom that is connected by wires to a cigar-box-sized unit. The user rolls the light sensor along a line of print, and the electronic circuitry in the other unit converts the share of each letter into a set of vibrations in a rectangular array of tiny vibrators. The user runs the light sensor along the line of print with his left hand and places the index finger of his right hand in a slot in the electronic unit. As the sensor moves along, the tiny vibrators mark the shape of each letter on the underside of the user's forefinger. The entire unit is small enough for the user to carry it wherever he needs to—into a supermarket to read labels on packages; into library stacks to find the right book, and into the reading room of a library.

The same firm that produces the Optacon has come out with a pocket electronic calculator that not only has the usual visual display but also, at the press of a button, announces in words what the user is doing and what the registers show.

There is hardly any technical task, save perhaps driving a car or performing surgery, that a blind person cannot do, given the right tools. Take carpentry, for example. There are braille marked carpenters' squares, levels that emit an audible signal, and many other standard and specialized tools that blind persons find easy to use. Large collections are available from such organizations as: Aids and Appliances Divisions for the American Foundation for the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind, American Printing House for the Blind; and Howe Press.

## Society Available to Many

Most people served by the Toledo Society for the Blind are **not** totally blind. To be declared legally blind, a person must see no more at a distance of 20 feet than someone with normal vision can see at 200 feet. That means most legally blind people do have some sight. The Toledo Society for the Blind is available to many people who may have the mistaken impression one must be nearly or totally blind to use its services.

Many new visual aids are being added at the Society to help visually impaired people. If you or someone you know falls into the visually impaired category, you or they may benefit through one or more of the Society's services. Contact Mrs. Lauretta Turner (241-1183) for more information.



## The Sign Post

During 1977, the Canteen Service Company donated 8,000 cups of coffee and hot chocolate in the Society's vending machine. At 15 cents a cup, this represents a \$1,200 gift to employees and friends of the Society.

The Goins-On, a monthly newsletter written by the Society and distributed to the blind, celebrated its 20th anniversary last month.

# Teamsters Care

A small group of rank and file members of Teamsters Local 20 visibly gave proof to everyone that the above expression, TEAMSTERS CARE, is much more than a fancy phrase. When it became known to Jim Huff's fellow members that he not only had a serious physical problem (disabled blind at age 49), but a financial problem as well, a committee was quickly organized to at least alleviate some of the financial difficulties for Jim and his family.

Members from the trucking division involved some members from other shops within Local 20's jurisdiction and the

"C.B. Coffee Break" for Jim Huff really caught on. Coffee pots were made available, coffee was donated, vans were made available, signs for the vans were made up and dozens of people were lined up to cover truck stop areas for a 32-hour period. The enthusiasm was contagious. Base stations sent out the word on behalf of Jim and people with their C.B.'s turned on answered the call for help. Mel Berman of Truck Stop "5", Virgil Gladieux of ABC Gladieux, and Dan McNight of NATCO Truck Stop in Napoleon gave a free cup of coffee to all donors. The cooperative effort was

Limited copies of the Directory of Programs and Services for the Handicapped published by the Department of Community Development, City of Toledo in July 1977, are available in large print. If interested, contact Mrs. Turner, 241-1183.

Do you know a visually impaired person who might be interested in becoming a media monitor on a part-time basis? The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and the Louis Braille Foundation have begun screening applications from interested qualified handicapped individuals.

A media monitor tapes a station's music broadcasts and reports to ASCAP on the forms they supply. All handicapped people may participate. Write the Louis Braille Foundation, 215 Park Avenue, South New York, NY 10003 for an application.

